

# SPORT



## Kamrul makes the cut

### BCB names squad for first two Zim ODIs

SPORTS REPORTER

While pacer Taskin Ahmed did deem himself fit for the Zimbabwe series a few days ago, the national selectors begged to differ as they kept the bowler

out of the 14-member squad, announced for the first two Zimbabwe ODIs yesterday.

Openers Imrul Kayes, Anamul Haque and pacer Shafiul Islam also failed to make the cut. On the other hand, the selectors decided to give Al-Amin Hossain a comeback opportunity and also kept their faith on uncapped Kamrul Islam.

Kamrul, who went on two tours with the Bangladesh A team this year, was over the moon upon finally getting a chance in the main team.

"The fact that I have managed to break through into the national squad is in itself a very exciting feeling. Every cricketer dreams of playing in the national team and I am extremely happy. Everyone's happy; so are my parents. They called me just now to congratulate me," said a thrilled Kamrul.

Despite the excitement, Kamrul reckoned that there was still a long road ahead.

"I am waiting for my chance. I am not taking any extra challenge. I will just try to prove myself by playing my natural game. I know that one can only stay in the national team if he performs," said Kamrul.

"The important thing is to follow your strength and work on that aspect. During the HP (High Performance) programme I bowled a number of overs with the new ball and worked on my variations. We had sessions where we worked on analysing a batsman's weakness. These things have helped me a lot," added the 23-year-old.

**SQUAD**

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal, Liton Das, Soumya Sarkar, Mushfiqur Rahim, Mahmudullah, Sabbir Rahman, Nasir Hossain, Arifat Sunny, Jubair Hossain, Mustafizur Rahman, Al-Amin Hossain, Kamrul Islam Rabbi



**KAMRUL ISLAM RABBI**

**BOWLING**

List A	Mat	Wkts	Ave	4w	5w
28	42	27.52	1	1	

Chief selector Faruque Ahmed praised Kamrul's ability to stick to a good line and length in the shorter format of the game.

"Look we always think of who can come in next to the team. Our pacers have constant injury issues and I think it's good to see a young pacer coming up. He has shown his talent in South Africa. We are giving him his home conditions for his first series and if he gets a debut, it will be the best possible settings for him," said Faruque about the pacer from Barisal.

Zimbabwe are scheduled to arrive today evening to play three ODIs and two T20Is. The ODIs will take place on November 7, 9 and 11.

**Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan gets set to whack an incoming delivery at the Mirpur indoor stadium on his first day of practice since his return from USA.**

PHOTO: STAR

## Barisal confirm promotion

SPORTS REPORTER



A powerful batting performance helped Barisal confirm their promotion to Tier One yesterday as they won four bonus points after posting a massive first-innings total of 489 against Chittagong in Bogra.

As per the rules, a team will get four bonus points if they cross the 400-run mark in the first innings of a National Cricket League match and Tier Two leaders Barisal required just three.

Resuming the second day on 323 for 1, Barisal lost their overnight centuries Shahriar Nafees and Fazole Mahmud after just nine overs. The pair shared a fabulous 283-run stand.

Mohammad Al-Amin, who has been in good nick, came in next and scored a patient 60 to further pound on the runs against the Chittagonians.

The wicket at Bogra continued to be a paradise for batsmen, as Chittagong's batters went about at nearly 4.5 runs an over after the exchange. They finished on 134 for 1 with Mominul Haque remaining unbeaten on a 67-ball 64.

On the other hand, the rains are seemingly settling things at the top tier. The two matches - Khulna against Rangpur and Dhaka against Dhaka Metro - have been heavily affected by inclement weather with barely any cricket played in the last two days.

While the Rangpur-Khulna encounter in Chittagong could allow

only seven overs yesterday, the Dhaka derby in Cox's Bazar is yet to see a ball being bowled. The weather intervention has essentially taken Khulna a step towards winning the championship, leaving Rangpur grappling with the threat of demotion.

At the moment Khulna are at the top of the table with 47 points while Dhaka Metro and Dhaka have 41 and 40 points respectively. Either of the Dhakas will require a win in order to topple Khulna in the final round

the league. However, with two days washed out, both these matches are heading for draws, in which case each team will receive three points.

Considering that Barisal have already confirmed their promotion, the other Tier Two encounter between Rajshahi and Sylhet in Khulna has lost its appeal. However that factor didn't matter a bit for the Rajshahi duo of Hamidul Islam and Farhad Hossain, who hit hundreds in Khulna yesterday.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

BARISAL V CHITTAGONG	RAJSHAHI V SYLHET	RANGPUR V KHULNA
Barisal: 489 all out in 143.4 overs (Nafees 168, Fazle 133; Nabil 4-101, Belal 3-132) Chittagong: 134 for 1 (Mominul 64 not out; Golam 1-21)	Rajshahi: 176 and 11 for no loss Sylhet: 395 all out in 101.1 overs (Farhad 144, Hamidul 105; Nasum 3-55)	Rangpur: 27 for 1 (Basu 18; Razzak 1-4)

## Women's football starts today

SPORTS REPORTER

KFC National Women's Football Championship gets underway today, with 42 district teams taking part in the event.

Being split into six zones, the teams will first play in knock-out format before six zonal champions and one best runners-up team will join defending champions Mymensingh in the final round.

The knockout phase will be held in Rangpur, Meherpur, Faridpur, Laxmipur, Jessore and Rajshahi. The matches of Jessore and Rajshahi will get underway today while the matches of the four other venues will start from tomorrow.

## Vikings launched

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Premier League franchise Chittagong Vikings unveiled its logo in a ceremony that took place at the Radisson Blu in Dhaka yesterday.

Apart from the logo, the franchise--owned by DBL Sports Ltd, a concern of DBL Group-- launched the team theme song and the team match jersey for the third edition of BPL.

Chittagong Vikings' icon and captain, Tamim Iqbal along with, Taskin Ahmed, Anamul Haque Bijoy and Shafiul Islam were present on the occasion.

Vikings chairman Abdul Wahed, Managing Director Abdul Jabbar, Vice-chairman Abdul Rahim and Deputy Managing Director Mohammed Adul Quader along with other dignitaries were present in the launching ceremony.

Chairman of the side, Wahed believes he and his team management have been able to put up a balanced side. The side had eyed service of national opening batsman Tamim Iqbal. With luck favoring Chittagong in the BPL Players' by Choice held last month, the side roped Tamim as the icon cricketer and has named the left-handed batsman the captain of Chittagong Vikings.

## Pakistan skittled for 234

AFP, Sharjah



Pace man James Anderson led England's efforts to level the series against Pakistan with four wickets on the opening day of the third and final Test in Sharjah on Sunday.

Seeking to level the three-match series after losing the second Test in Dubai, England were kept in the hunt by Anderson who took 4-17 to dismiss Pakistan for a paltry 234 on a relaid Sharjah Stadium pitch.

At the close, England opens

Alastair Cook (nought) and Moeen Ali (four) had survived two overs to finish on four without loss as England trail by 230 runs.

Anderson's new-ball partner Stuart Broad kept the pressure on from the other end, bowling eight of his 13 overs maiden and finishing with 2-13.

Pakistan, who won the toss and batted, were indebted to skipper Misbah-ul-Haq who was ninth out after scoring a fighting 71 for his 32nd half-century.

Misbah added a fighting 80 for the sixth wicket with Sarfraz Ahmed (39) but all the other batsmen, including

Younis Khan (31), Shoaib Malik (38) and Mohammad Hafeez (27), failed to capitalise on good starts.

England took the second new ball with the score on 222-7 with Anderson dismissing Misbah caught in the slips before wrapping up the innings with the wicket of Rahat Ali for four.

Misbah hit seven fours and two sixes during his 160-ball knock but could not stop the slide as Pakistan lost their last five wickets for just 38 runs.

Younis, who made a brilliant hundred in the second Test in Dubai, looked in good shape before falling leg-before as he missed an incoming full toss from Anderson and unsuccessfully challenged umpire's decision.

Younis, who survived a confident caught-behind appeal off Broad on 21, became Anderson's 422nd wicket in his 110th Test.

Anderson is now eighth on the all-time leading Test wicket takers, leaving South African paceman Shaun Pollock (421 wickets) behind.

Broad put pressure on the Pakistan batting, getting Malik caught behind, while Asad Shafiq was dismissed for just five by Samit Patel who finished with 2-85.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

PAKISTAN: First innings 234 all out (Hafeez 27, Malik 38, Younis 31, Misbah 71, Sarfraz 39; Anderson 4-17, Broad 2-13, Patel 2-85, Moeen 2-49)  
ENGLAND: First innings 4 for no loss.



England pacer James Anderson (L) celebrates after taking the wicket of Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq on first day of the third and final Test at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## December too tight: Papon

SPORTS REPORTER



Ever since the ICC meeting took place in Dubai last month, there have been talks regarding a possible series in December for the Tigers. BCB president Nazmul Hasan Papon, who attended that meeting, was involved in informal discussions with both the cricket boards of India and Pakistan on the sideline about a possible window.

Speaking to The Daily Star regarding the opportunity Papon said: "At the moment the situation seems to be a little too tight for us."

"The fact is that we have very little time. We have got the Zimbabwe series in November and after that we have the Bangladesh Premier League. Our players will get a short break after the BPL and then Zimbabwe will be back."

"We have to keep in mind that we will be playing the Asia Cup and the World T20 in a few months time. There will be one event after the other and we can't risk our players getting injured. They will hardly be getting a 15-day break and they might need that to recover," added the BCB president.

The BCB boss made this observation a few hours after Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shahryar Khan, while speaking to a Bangladeshi television channel, said that they were open to play a series against Bangladesh in Dubai after the BPL in December.

When contacted, BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury said that the PCB is yet to officially approach the BCB regarding the tour.

The BPL's third season is set to begin on November 22 after the Zimbabwe series ends on November 15. The T20 tournament will take place in Dhaka and Chittagong and end on December 15. The window of opportunity that is being discussed here begins after this period and will extend until Zimbabwe arrive again to play two Tests in January.

## C'ship clubs to play in Tangail

SPORTS REPORTER

Eight clubs of the second-tier professional football league will take part in the DC Gold Cup Tournament in Tangail as part of their preparation for the Bangladesh Championship League.

The decision was made at a meeting of the Bangladesh Professional Football League Committee after the Tangail Football Association and Tangail District Sports Association had made the proposal to the game's governing body.

"The FA and DSA of Tangail proposed us to send all teams of the Bangladesh Championship League for the DC Gold Cup and we have taken the decision with consent from all teams, who want to take part in the tournament as part of preparation for the Championship League, which would start from November 20," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag.

Apart from the eight Bangladesh Championship League teams, four teams from Tangail will be taking part in the 10-day tournament, which will get underway on November 6.

## SL win a crazy game

AFP, Colombo



Tillakaratne Dilshan smashed 59 off 32 balls as Sri Lanka edged past the West Indies by one wicket in the rain-curtailed first one-day international in Colombo on Sunday.

Set a Duckworth-Lewis target of 163 in 26 overs, the hosts survived anxious moments before winning with seven balls to spare at the Premadasa stadium to grab the lead in the three-match series.

Dilshan hit six boundaries and three sixes before Sri Lanka floundered while chasing the revised target after the West Indies, sent in to bat, had scored 159-8 in their 26 overs.

The hosts, cruising at 104-2, lost seven wickets for 48 runs before tailender Ajantha Mendis hit the winning six off Johnson Charles, who started the second last over with a wide with the home side needing another nervy 11 runs.

The start of the day-night match was delayed by an hour and 20 minutes due to persistent rain. Further bad weather during

the West Indies innings reduced the game to 26 overs-a-side.

Dilshan put on 46 for the first wicket with Kusal Perera and 43 for the second with Lahiru Thirimanne to give Sri Lanka a bright start.

But spinner Sunil Narine claimed three wickets, and Carlos Brathwaite and Jonathan Carter took two each, to cause a sensational Sri Lankan collapse when all seemed lost for the West Indies.

Earlier, Andre Russell and Darren Bravo put on 58 runs off 37 balls to steer the West Indies to 159-8 after they slipped to 24-3 before the rain break and then became 42-4 soon after resumption.

The one-day series will be followed by two Twenty20 games.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**

WEST INDIES: 159 for 8 in 26 overs (Bravo 38, Russell 41, Holder 36 not out; Lakmal 2-15, Mendis 2-46)  
SRI LANKA: (Target 163 in 26 overs) 164 for 9 in 24.5 overs (Dilshan 59, Mendis 21 not out; Narine 3-21, Carter 2-14)  
Result: Sri Lanka won by 1 wicket (D/L method).  
Player-of-the-match: Dilshan



PRAN UP, a brand of Pran-RFL Group, was revealed as the title sponsor of Bangladesh's upcoming limited overs series against Zimbabwe in a ceremony that took place at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR